each year. The leading causes of death in this age group were motor vehicle injuries, homicide, other unintentional injuries, cancer, and heart disease.

Figure 10 displays the teen pregnancy rate (reported pregnancies per 1,000 female population for ages 15–19) for African Americans and whites. African-American teen girls had a pregnancy rate almost twice as high as the rate for white teenagers.

Figure 11 shows data from the 2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, a statewide survey of middle and high school students conducted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. African-American high school students reported the lowest rates of current cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption of any racial/ethnic group.

Understanding the Data

In most instances the data presented for African Americans, American Indians, and whites in this report exclude Hispanics and Latinos. Hispanic is considered an ethnicity, not a race, and Hispanics are often included in the white racial category. Removing Hispanics/Latinos from the racial groups allows for a more accurate portrayal of health disparities by race[5] (for data on persons of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, see the report "North Carolina Minority Health Facts: Hispanics/Latinos") which often artificially improves the rates for whites for many chronic disease measures.

Some of the rates presented in this fact sheet are age-adjusted. This is a statistical technique for calculating rates or percentages for different populations as if they all had the age distribution of a "standard" population (in this publication, the 2000 United States population). Rates adjusted to the same standard population can be directly compared to each other, with differences being attributed to factors other than the age distributions of the populations.

Figure 8
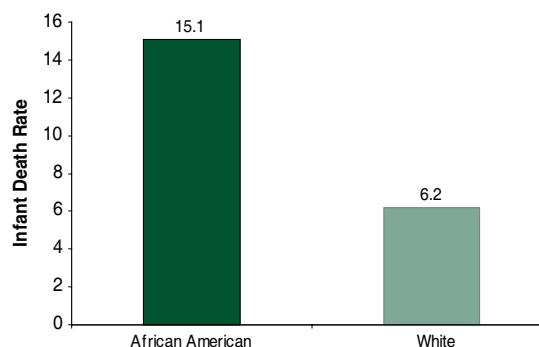**Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births, by Race/Ethnicity North Carolina, 2004–2008**

Table 7
Percentages of North Carolina Children with Selected Risk Factors/Conditions, by Race/Ethnicity
(Based on Weighted 2008 CHAMP Survey Data)

	African American	White
Asthma, ever had	18.6	13.7
Elevated need for medical, mental health, or educational services	7.7	11.5
No health insurance some time in past 12 months	12.3	8.0
No personal doctor	15.0	13.5
No regular dentist	23.8	17.4
Fair or poor dental health	8.5	4.6
Cut size of child's meals in last year/not enough money for food	9.0	2.8
Spends no time in physically active play	5.6	2.0

Figure 9
Deaths per 100,000 Population of Children Ages 1–17, by Race/Ethnicity North Carolina, 2004–2008

Minority Health Facts ♦ African Americans — July 2010
Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and State Center for Health Statistics

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